cysts, to the smaller of which was applied a triangular wedge of fibrous tissue supporting the thickened cord. The larger of these cysts contained a light yellow, greasy, granular material, intermingled with a tangle of hair, and with some bright red blood in the centre. The smaller cyst contained a similar material, of a light anchovy-paste colour with a small quantity of hair intermixed.

When the contents were removed, there was discovered embedded in the wall of the smaller cyst, at the point marked 1 in the photograph, a hard projection closely resembling a small bicuspid tooth. At the point marked 2 in the larger cyst was a similar double projection, but of fibrous consistency, from the circumference of which sprang a tuft of coarse, black hair. At point 3 is the fimbriated end of the thickened Fallopian tube.

Section of the left ovarian mass liberated from the large thin-walled cystic portion a clear, yellow, serous fluid, and showed the multilocular arrangement. The more solid portion contained three cavities marked 4, 5 and 6 in the photograph. Of these, numbers 4 and 5 were filled with a light, reddish grey, greasy material, and number 6 with a yellow, sebaceous material intermixed with hair. Evacuation of the contents of 4 and 5 displayed smooth walls, but when the contents of 6 were removed there was found to be a rather irregular semicircle of bone, with rounded projections, rather suggestive of a primitive vertebra, embedded in the wall. This bony semicircle had to be forcibly broken to allow of the specimen being completely opened out. At point 7 was embedded a round semi-translucent nodule of cartilage. Point 8 indicates the site of attachment of the Fallopian tube.

The condition was one of multiple dermoid cysts of both ovaries, with a multilocular ovarian cystoma on the left side.

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**Echoes of the Past.**

**A SURGEON OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY.**

By **MAJOR OSKAR TEICHMAN, D.S.O., M.C., T.D.**

*Royal Army Medical Corps, T.A. Reserve.*

Towards the end of the year 1798, the British Government became aware that Napoleon was about to invade Palestine, with the intention of crushing the Turkish army in that country, before the chief Ottoman force (which was assembling at Rhodes) should have time to reach Egypt by sea.

Although Nelson had destroyed the French fleet at Aboukir Bay in August of the same year, Napoleon had by this time gained a strong footing in Egypt. His Majesty’s Ministers decided therefore to send to the Dominions of the Grand Seignior a British Military Mission, which was to
proceed to the seat of war in Palestine as quickly as possible, and to co-operate with the Turks against the common enemy, the French. For this purpose Brigadier-General Koehler,1 who had been in Turkey before, was selected, together with several officers of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery. These and a number of N.C.O.'s and artificers composed the Mission, amounting in all to seventy-six officers and other ranks.

The officers appointed to serve under General Koehler were: R.E., Colonel Holloway, Major Fletcher and Captain Lacy; R.A., Majors Hope, Fead, and Leake. Secretary to the General, Captain Franklin, H.E.I.C. Commissaries, Messrs. Chandler and Whiteman. Draughtsmen, Messrs. Read and Pink: and, last but not least, William Wittman, M.D., M.R.C.S., Surgeon of the Royal Artillery.

Wittman, who at the time of his appointment to the Mission was stationed at Woolwich, was an observant man, keen on his profession, and a meticulous diarist. From April, 1799, to March, 1802, he kept both a general and medical journal, which are of considerable interest to those who served with the E.E.F. in the Great War. Some readers will be on familiar ground when they follow him from Constantinople to Gallipoli, thence to Jaffa, Jerusalem, Gaza, El Arish, Kantara, etc.

Wittman's diaries are verbose and very lengthy; he describes in detail nearly all his clinical cases and gives us treatises on plague and ophthalmia; he even records the state of the barometer, thermometer and wind three times a day over a period of three years! When he has a slight headache he records the fact; he solemnly notes down his T.P.R. whenever he has a Turkish bath, and does not spare the reader the minutiae associated with any important meal!

However, various interesting facts may be culled from this mass of information, and to these the present writer has added a few historical facts, of which Wittman was ignorant when he wrote up his daily journal. Owing to the latter's orthography—as regards place-names being entirely phonetic, the spelling used in the official maps of to-day has been followed.

During December, 1798, General Koehler, accompanied by five of his staff, set out from England, proceeding overland to Constantinople, a hazardous and uncomfortable journey performed on horseback in midwinter, which would nowadays be accomplished by a Military Mission in the luxurious Orient express, or by aeroplane. However, after various vicissitudes and great hardships, Koehler and his companions arrived in Constantinople in the middle of March.

On April 1, 1799, the New Adventure transport, carrying the remainder of the officers (including our Surgeon of Artillery), N.C.O.'s, women and

1 An officer of German birth, who joined the R.A. (No. 605 in the list of officers of the Royal Regiment, published 1900) in 1779 as Second Lieutenant; served in the defence of Gibraltar, 1780-83. A.D.C. to Lord Heathfield; invented a gun carriage. In 1790 seconded for service with the Belgian Army, as Major-General, against the Austrians. Brevet-Colonel, 1794.—D.N.B. and Jl. for Army Hist. Research, January, 1929.
children, together with the artillery and ordnance stores, sailed from England under convoy of "H.M.S. Charon," forty-five guns, and, after an uneventful voyage, reached Constantinople early in June. It seems strange nowadays that a Military Mission in war time should be accompanied by women and children, but even ten years later, in the Peninsular Campaign, it was not unusual for the British soldier to be accompanied on active service by his wife. Several of these women, including the General's wife, died of plague in Palestine during the campaign.

Meanwhile Napoleon, after traversing the Sinai Desert, had captured El Arish, Gaza, and Jaffa, but had been forced to raise the siege of Acre owing to the heroic defence of that town by Sir Sidney Smith and a handful of British sailors, aided by a few thousand undisciplined Turkish soldiers. The French actually commenced their retreat to Egypt on May 20, ten days before the complete British Mission had assembled in Constantinople.

Although the Grand Vizier and his army left Constantinople for the front during June, the British Military Mission appeared to be in no hurry to proceed to the seat of war, and actually remained on the shores of the Bosphorus for nearly a year enjoying the liberal hospitality of the Turkish Government. One of the R.E. officers was detailed to accompany the Grand Vizier, but was prevented from doing so by "reporting sick" to Wittman on the day of departure. Another officer, Major Fead, sailed to Acre on a Turkish man-of-war a few weeks later (not knowing that the siege had already been raised), where he subsequently died of plague.

During the year spent in Constantinople, Wittman appears to have been the busiest member of the Mission. For the first few weeks he was kept busy "extracting balls" from the wounded Turks who had been brought by ship from Acre. He made friends with the Surgeon of the Grand Seignior, and carried on a lucrative practice amongst the Turkish notables. Wittman’s services were much in request, which we can well understand when he states: "There are in Constantinople 5,000 persons who profess the different branches of the medical art, but they are utterly ignorant of the principles of either medicine or surgery."

Referring to the general health of the Turks he remarks: "They are certainly not subject to the multitude of diseases which infest other nations. Sores and wounds heal with more facility. Much may be ascribed to their temperance. Fontanelles or issues are in common use, and somewhat lessen the evils resulting from the indolent and inactive life which the Turks generally lead. Cutaneous affections, herpetics and tetter eruptions are common, particularly on the head. Their greasy food, inactive life, their excesses in the use of smoking tobacco and opium, may give rise to these disorders. Besides plague, they are occasionally subject to fevers. . . ."

Wittman treated many cases of "fever," both amongst members of the Mission and also Turkish civilians. He diagnoses malignant, bilious,
remittent, intermittent, putrid, and low fevers. The Army Medical Officer in 1799 had never heard of those subtle diseases P.U.O. and N.Y.D.!

That Wittman was thoroughly up to date is shown by the following entry: “December 12, 1799: I inoculated Master Sidney Smith who had been under my preparation for some days.”

This no doubt refers to vaccination against small-pox, introduced by Jenner in 1798.

From his diary Wittman appears to have been a physicist as well as a surgeon. On September 16, 1799, he writes: “I rode to Belgrade (a village near Constantinople) and returned to Buyukdere; I brought home with me some of the air to examine.”

He does not tell us how he carried out his analysis, or the results he obtained!

Sometimes the British gunners instructed the Turks in the art of firing red-hot shot, and on these occasions Wittman was always present in case of accidents. He attended many court functions, and wrote up his diary regularly, describing the places he visited and the scenes in which he took part.

Together with the other officers of the Mission he was present at numerous dances, dinners, and receptions given by various ambassadors and ministers, and made the acquaintance of Lord Elgin, the British Minister, who a few years later was to transfer a portion of the famous Parthenon frieze in Athens to the British Museum.

When not engaged in social functions in the capital, the British Mission found time to make expeditions to places of interest on the Golden Horn, the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles. On one of these excursions the forts at Sed-El-Bahr and Chanak were visited; at the latter place Wittman was much intrigued at seeing a Turkish sentry eating his lunch inside the muzzle of a gun, in order to keep out of the rain. It is interesting to learn that the old fort at Chanak, which Admiral Sir John de Robeck destroyed in March, 1915, was designed by Lieutenant Colonel Holloway, R.E., of the British Mission in 1799.

While at Chanak the Turkish gunners were anxious to show the British officers that their marble cannon balls, fired à ricochet, could reach across the Dardanelles. Our surgeon of the Royal Artillery witnessed this performance, and records the fact that a family of three sitting in a field on the European side of the Dardanelles was killed by one of these balls, “thus furnishing a satisfactory but melancholy proof of the efficacy of the Turkish Artillery! ”

Towards the end of the year 1799, the British Mission, which had been

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1 Invented by Vauban for clearing a “covered way”; the piece was only half charged, so that the ball rolled and rebounded. In this instance it skimmed the water, playing “ducks and drakes.”
so hurriedly dispatched to the seat of war some ten months previously, was
sent to Kum-Kale by the British Minister in Constantinople.

Wittman tells us that:

"The purport of our journey thither was to procure a very curious
bas-relief and the celebrated Sigaean inscriptions for Lord Elgin, who had
seen them and was desirous to transmit them to England."

A curious but perhaps not unpraiseworthy way of utilizing a Military
Mission.

Wittman continues: "The Greeks, by whom the village was exclusively
inhabited, were extremely averse to these bas-reliefs and inscriptions being
taken away. Their reluctance, we were told, arose from a superstitious
opinion they entertained that by touching these stones agues were cured."

But what could a few Greek villagers do against the Officers, N.C.O.'s,
and artificers of the Royal Artillery?

In spite of their owners' "reluctance" the stones were duly removed
and handed over to Lord Elgin, who had them conveyed to England!
According to Wittman this appears to have been one of the most important
tasks accomplished by the Mission, during its pleasant sojourn of twelve
months in Constantinople. Meanwhile the R.A. draughtsmen were
employed in making drawings of the most picturesque views in the
Turkish capital.

However, this pleasant state of affairs, as far as the Mission was con­
cerned, could not go on indefinitely; perhaps General Koehler suddenly
realized that he had been dispatched by the War Office to the seat of war;
Constantinople could hardly be regarded as such. Perhaps he received a
sharp reminder from home. In any case Wittman writes under January
19, 1800: "To-day General Koehler, Major Fletcher, Captain Leake, and
Mr. Pink (draughtsman), left for Syria by land, disguised as Tartars."

And on June 15, more than a year after its arrival in Turkey, the rest
of the British Mission (including women and children attached) left
Constantinople and embarked for the seat of war.

In the interim the French had evacuated Palestine; Napoleon had
returned to France; Kleber, after signally defeating the Turks (early in 1800)
at Damietta and Heliopolis, had been assassinated on the steps of Shepherd's
Hotel; and the French army under Menou had concentrated about
Alexandria and Cairo.

The Turkish transport which carried the British Mission took over a
fortnight to accomplish the journey from Constantinople to Jaffa: this was
partly due to the fact that Scio, Samos, Patmos, and Cyprus were visited
en route. Our Surgeon informs us that he experienced a very unpleasant

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1 Where the French landed in April, 1915.

2 Wittman tells us that the Sultan, when he heard of Napoleon's escape, immediately
had a Turkish Admiral decapitated:

This was no doubt, "to encourage the others," as Voltaire remarked at the time of
Byng's execution.
motion from the rolling of the boat. On July 1, Gaza was sighted; the transport therefore turned northward and cruised along the coast until Jaffa was identified. This town had been for some months the advanced base of the Grand Vizier's Army. Wittman precedes his description of Jaffa with the following platitude:—

"We were now debarked on the Syrian coast, to be the spectators of great military events, in which we were ourselves to be engaged; and that in a country on which history, both sacred and profane, has conferred the highest celebrity."

Soon after landing, he noted a painful sensation of the eyes owing to the heat, and informs us that this did not surprise him, "as during the summer solstice the natives are subject to violent ophthalmies."

The officers of the British Mission, especially the M.O., were very shocked at the condition of the Turkish camp. The tents, pitched in an irregular manner, were situated amongst partly interred bodies, and carcasses of horses and asses, and camels.

During the eight months which the Mission spent in Jaffa epidemic diseases, especially plague, were rampant. General and Mrs. Koehler died of this disease, also several gunners, artificers, women and children. Wittman had many sick to look after, and discovered that "external friction with warm oil" was the best prophylactic against plague. He records the fact that Dr. White, a naval surgeon, inoculated himself (contrary to Wittman's advice) against plague, by injecting the matter from the bubo of a pestiferous patient, and died on the fourth day. Wittman describes nearly all his cases, and his notes generally conclude with the words, "the patient expired." After the Grand Vizier's body-physician had died of plague, and also thirty-six of the suite, our surgeon had the unenviable task of attending to the Turkish staff, amongst whom plague was rampant. But Wittman records some cures, especially in cases of "ophthalmies." Some of these yielded to ung. hyd. nit. with tr. opii, others to blisters behind the ears. He cured a case of secondary lues venerea, by means of nitrous acid dil. and oxygenated muriate of potash, in two months. "Not one grain of mercury was used in any shape."

Towards the end of July, 1800, some consternation was caused in the Turkish camp when it became known that the French were advancing again and had reached Katia in considerable force. A few days later it was announced that the enemy had reached El Arish. This news caused a panic in the Turkish army, and at the urgent request of the Grand Vizier, Lieutenant-Colonel Holloway, now in command of the British Mission, organized the defences of Jaffa. Wittman records some cures, especially in cases of "ophthalmies." Some of these yielded to ung. hyd. nit. with tr. opii, others to blisters behind the ears. He cured a case of secondary lues venerea, by means of nitrous acid dil. and oxygenated muriate of potash, in two months. "Not one grain of mercury was used in any shape."

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he observed in the camp; he dissected one of these and "was much pleased with the singular conformation of the little animal."

He gives us a list of the principal officers in the army of the Grand Vizier: this, in addition to the usual executive officers on the staff of an army, includes O.C. pressgangs, principal dog-keeper, and bird-keeper in chief; possibly the latter appointment corresponded to our O.C. pigeons in the Great War.

While at Jaffa, Wittman visited the sand-hills, three miles outside the city, where he saw evidence of the "horrid massacre" which had taken place three months previously; the skeletons and clothing of the unfortunate victims lying scattered in all directions.

This refers to the execution of Turkish prisoners by the French in 1799. During the siege of Jaffa a part of the garrison, amounting to about 2,000 men, held out in the mosques and citadel for some time longer than the rest, but at length seeing no chance of rescue surrendered.

The French soldiers murmured, asking how these infidels were to be fed, when they themselves were already short of rations. Napoleon discussed the matter with his generals and decided that, in this case, necessity left no room for mercy. Three days later the prisoners were marched out and shot or bayoneted to a man just outside Jaffa. Napoleon tried to justify this sinister deed on the treble plea that he could not afford the soldiers to guard so many prisoners, that he could not feed them, and that he could not grant them the benefit of their parole, because they were the same men who had been set free on such terms when El Arish was captured.

Early in February, 1801, the Grand Vizier decided to advance in force against the enemy, but before we follow the Ottoman army and the British Military Mission (with its artillery surgeon) through Southern Palestine and the Sinai desert, it will be necessary to examine the march of events at home, and the subsequent formation of a British E.E.F., during the eight months spent by Wittman in the pestilential camp of Jaffa.

From the time when Napoleon landed in Egypt, the occupation of that country by a French army, and its possible consequence to our Empire in the East, had caused the gravest anxiety to the British Government. Although Nelson had destroyed the French fleet in August, 1798, and Sir Sidney Smith had checked Napoleon at Acre, no British troops had been sent to the Near East, excepting the Military Mission.

At length in the autumn of 1800 it was decided, in opposition to the wishes of King George III and the younger Pitt, to dispatch an expeditionary force to Egypt.

By February, 1801, the Fleet under Lord Keith, carrying Sir Ralph Abercrombie and his army, were already in possession of Malta; another army, composed of British and Indian troops, had landed at Suez; and, lastly, the army of the Grand Vizier was prepared to co-operate with General Abercrombie, whenever he should effect a landing in the neigh-
A Surgeon of the Royal Artillery

bourhood of Alexandria. The command of the French army had devolved at this date on Menou, who had distributed his relatively small force in the Delta.

On February 25, 1801, the Ottoman army left Jaffa and commenced its leisurely march towards Egypt. Wittman tells us that the Turks abandoned all their sick, after instructing them to make the best of their way (on foot) to Constantinople, some thousand odd miles distant!

A day's march brought the army to Yebna, where it halted for about two weeks. The plague, which had been dormant for some time, now broke out again, and Wittman records the death of one of the women attached to the Mission, called by the not inappropriate name of Mrs. Comfort. At Yebna part of the army mutinied, the Albanian troops, who had received no pay or rations, deserted, and the British Mission went in fear of their lives. Colonel Holloway at length persuaded the Grand Vizier to advance once more, and on March 12 the Turks crossed the Wadi Sukereir by the old stone bridge and reached Esdud. Wittman tells us that the army maintained a pace of three miles an hour, halting only twice in the course of the day.

At Askalan, the ruins of which the surgeon describes, a night was spent, whence Gaza was reached on the following day. Here the army rested for ten days, while Wittman thoroughly explored the neighbourhood, and in the suburbs of the town shot an antelope which was much appreciated by his mess.

On leaving Gaza the Turks experienced considerable difficulty in crossing the Wadi Ghuzze, which was in spate. At Khan Yunus the British Mission heard with great joy of Abercrombie's successful landing at Aboukir Bay and subsequent victory at Alexandria.

Between Khan Yunus and Sheikh Zowaid, Wittman comments on the boundary stones "which separate Asia from Africa," and on the sudden change to desert scenery. The trek from Sheikh Zowaid to El Arish (some sixteen miles) was accomplished in one day. In the vicinity of the latter town, which had not in those days yet fallen into decay, and which boasted strong fortifications erected by the French, the Turks encamped for nearly three weeks. During this time the Mission suffered great hardships; the British officers experienced their first khamsin, which Wittman describes; he also complains: "Of the deprivation of provisions, the plague, and the frequent intestine quarrels among the Turkish soldiery—surrounded in our forlorn situation in the desert by a train of threatening evils, among which may be enumerated pestilence and famine, and battle and murder, and sudden death."

At length to Wittman's great relief a transport arrived off El Arish with grain, and a few days later the army continued its march. At Bir Masaid sufficient water was collected to enable the troops to cross the waterless part of the Sinai Desert, three days' march to Katia, where a fresh supply would be obtainable. On the march the Ottoman army
Oskar Teichman

maintained an establishment of "sackars," a corps selected from the Janissaries, to attend and supply the troops with water; these sackars were mounted on horses provided with bells, and each horse carried two leathern sacks containing forty gallons of water. Wittman remarks on the good discipline which prevailed in this water duty corps.

Considering the extremely heavy going in deep sand (which members of the E.E.F. in 1916 will remember) between Masaid and Bir-el-Abd, it is surprising to read that the Turks marched the weary forty-five miles in two days, halting only at Mazar. Wittman was much impressed with the dried-up salt lakes which he passed, especially the Sabkhet-el-Mustabig; here he dug a hole, found brackish water, subjected the latter to a careful chemical analysis and found that it contained—a large proportion of salt! As he rode along the ancient pilgrim track, which connects Egypt with Palestine, our surgeon collected specimens of "a saline substance, finely crystallized, very shining and brilliant, for future experiments." He was "much gratified by the view of the surprising visual deception, which the French term Mirage," and which has been described with great ingenuity by Monge1, of the French National Institute.

The route was strewn with the carcasses of horses, camels, and asses left by the French during their retreat. Wittman comments on the thirty miles of heavy sand which he crossed between Mazar and Bir-el-Abd; as he approached the latter place he could distinguish the notes of the nightingale.

At Katia Wittman found good water in the wells, but in one of them it was black and offensive, "like that which is procured at Harrowgate." Between Katia and Duesidar, the next camping place, an advance party was sent forward to prepare a causeway over a river, as the stone bridge had been destroyed by the French. This river, according to Wittman, was a branch of the Nile which flowed into the sea near Pelusium.

On approaching Kantara other branches of the Nile were negotiated, and numbers of pigeons and ducks were encountered. Wittman shot several of these, which were highly acceptable to his mess, now reduced to the spare diet of bread, coffee, and a little rice.

At Salbia the Grand Vizier made his public entry into Egypt, which must have been an inspiring sight! First a line of cavalry, small parties of horsemen riding up and down in front of the line, and firing at full speed. Next another line of Arnauts, with the led horses of his Highness, and the imaums singing hymns. Next followed Colonel Holloway and the British Mission, the Turkish officers of State in succession, and his Highness the Vizier, with his bands of music and attendants. And lastly a body of cavalry closed the rear.

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1 Gaspard Monge (1746-1818), mathematician and physicist, who accompanied Napoleon to Egypt and was made Professor of the Ecole Polytechnique and Count of Pelusium.

2 It disappeared when the Suez Canal was constructed.
At this awe-inspiring sight five hundred Frenchmen who constituted the garrison at Salhia fled precipitately.

The British Mission now left the Grand Vizier, and joined Abercrombie’s army; and with it took part in the minor actions which culminated in peace with the French.

“The labours of the British Military Mission acting with the Turkish army drew at length to a conclusion after a series of painful, harassing, and critical events, many of which cannot, for obvious reasons, meet the public eye.”

Wittman received a gold medal from the Grand Vizier, in testimony of the approbation of the Sultan for the services he had rendered. He also received a letter, eulogizing his services to the Turkish army, to be delivered to the British Ambassador in Constantinople, Lord Elgin.

Considering the dangers to which the personnel of the British Mission were exposed, we may congratulate Wittman on the relatively small number of deaths which occurred. Out of a total of seventy-six officers and other ranks, twenty-four died of plague, fever, dysentery, and convulsive affections. Of the 18 women and 16 children who left England, 4 of the former and 6 of the latter died.

On March 24, 1802, the Mission sailed from Alexandria for Constantinople. The Peace of Amiens having been concluded on March 27, 1802, it was decided that the journey should be continued from the Turkish capital overland. Wittman has left us a most detailed description of this journey through the Balkans, Hungary, Austria, Germany, and Holland. He landed at Harwich on July 23, 1802, and soon afterwards returned to Woolwich for duty, where he completed his personal, medical, and meteorological journals.

THE WHITE MAN’S GRAVE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. STORRS.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

Having been given, by the courtesy of the Colonial Secretary, the “run” of the Secretariat library in Sierra Leone, I recently came across an old book, “Travels in Africa in the years 1785 to 1787,” written by a French gentleman, Monsieur Colbery.

In the hope that his observations on the climate and the prevailing diseases may be of interest to readers of the Journal, particularly to those who have served in Sierra Leone, I have made extracts of his more important remarks. His high opinion of the integrity of the English Medical Service is gratifying.

The temperatures which he notes as having been taken in the Sierra